

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
Washington 25, D. C.

606
Termination
of Authority

August 21, 1952

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES:

Subject: Emergency Powers Continuation Act (Public Law 450, 82nd Congress)

Public Law 450 extends only until April 1, 1953, the 48 statutory items therein, some of which concern your agency. These items contain authorities which by their terms were effective during the state of war and the 1939 and 1941 emergencies - all now terminated. Prior to their termination a bill was introduced, the terms of which would continue these items in effect during the 1950 emergency and for six months thereafter. However, it was clearly indicated by the Judiciary Committees in the course of the hearings that this period of extension was not satisfactory in an omnibus bill. Acting upon their recommendation and that of the conferees, Congress, in Public Law 450, limited the extension to April 1, 1953, a period which it apparently considered sufficient to enable the appropriate substantive committees to consider the question of further continuing the statutes contained in Public Law 450 on an individual basis. The Judiciary Committees felt that it was improper for them to be responsible for continuing for any longer period statutes which did not fall under their jurisdiction, and they also felt that the appropriate substantive committees should look into the need for amendment.

For this reason the President feels that we should not again seek a general extension of these laws in another omnibus bill. Accordingly, we are sending this letter as notification that each agency primarily concerned with the further extension or the substantive amendment of the various statutes in Public Law 450 will be expected to assume the responsibility for seeing that the necessary legislation is introduced in Congress for consideration by the appropriate committees. The Bureau of the Budget will not, therefore, undertake the responsibility of requesting from Congress the amendment or further extension of these items. The Bureau will, however, carry out its usual coordinating function with respect to the legislative proposals that will be involved.

Your legislative proposals, it is felt, should be submitted to us at the earliest possible time so that our work may be begun in time to be completed not later than December 1, 1952. We are sure you will agree that if these bills are not introduced immediately upon the convening of the 83rd Congress they will run a serious risk of not being enacted prior to the expiration date of April 1, 1953.

For the purpose of coordinating this legislative activity we have prepared and enclose a list which designates as the "Responsible Agency" for each statutory item, the agency which we believe is primarily concerned with the item and which took the initiative in presenting the testimony in support of the item at the hearings before the House Judiciary subcommittee on H. J. Res. 386. It is our suggestion that such "Responsible Agency" prepare and arrange for the introduction of any necessary legislation. The designated agency should not only consider any necessary further extension but should consider the need for substantive amendment and the desirability of converting the statute into permanent form. The House Judiciary subcommittee indicated at the hearings that it felt that substantive amendments and permanent statutes would be appropriate in a number of cases. We also wish to call attention to the general provisions in Public Law 450, namely, section 3, extending the authority of the Secretary of the Air Force to the same extent as the Secretary of the Army, and section 4, relating to possible conflict with Public Law 155, 82nd Congress, for consideration in connection with the extension or amending of certain of the statutory items with which you may be concerned.

Other agencies have been designated as "Interested Agencies". "Responsible and Interested Agencies" may desire to communicate with each other prior to preparation of the proposed bills to make sure that the interests of all agencies are being taken into account. There may be other agencies interested than those so designated and there is no intention to preclude the participation of any such agency. If there is any disagreement or question regarding our designation we should like to have the matter taken up with us at the earliest possible time so that a timely reassignment of responsibility for the item can be agreed upon. Further questions arising in connection with this matter may be taken up with the Bureau of the Budget through the office of Jefferson D. Burrus, code 189, extension 435.

Frederick J. Lawton
Director

Enclosure